WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method of creating a page description language description of an electronic document; comprising:

providing an electronic document, wherein the electronic document includes at least one image object;

converting the electronic document into print data and rendering data in accordance with a page description language to generate a PDL file;

associating at least one printer-independent print-quality characteristic with the at least one image object; and

inserting the association information in the PDL file.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the image object has an object type and wherein the associating step comprises the steps of:

providing a list of object types;

providing a list of printer-independent print-quality characteristics;

selecting the image object's object type from the list of object types; and

associating at least one printer-independent print-quality characteristic with the selected object type.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the associating step comprises the steps of:

providing a list of object descriptors for the image object; and

associating at least one printer-independent print-quality characteristics with each of said object descriptors.

4.   The method of claim 3, further comprising:

defining a custom object descriptor for the image object;

adding the custom object descriptor to the list of object descriptors; and

associating at least one printer-independent print-quality characteristics with said custom object descriptor.

5.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing a default set of associations for use by the page description language, wherein the default set comprises a plurality of object types and at least one printer-independent print-quality characteristic associated with each of said plurality of object types; and

inserting the default set in the PDL file.

6.   The method of claim 3, further comprising:

inserting the list of object descriptors for the image object in the PDL file.

7.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

identifying locations of the at least one image object in the document; and

inserting the printer-independent print quality-characteristic at the identified location with the image object.

8.   The method of claim 3, further comprising adding PDL language comments for each object descriptor.

9.   The method of claim 1, further comprising inserting the association information in the PLD file by location of the particular image object.

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